

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A photothermal conversion
spectroscopic analysis method ~~having a convergent irradiation~~
~~step of comprising:~~

convergently irradiating exciting light and detecting light
5 onto a sample using through a same converging lens such that the
convergent irradiation of the exciting light produces a thermal
lens in the sample; [[,]] and a measurement step of
measuring a change in intensity accompanying deflection of
the detecting light upon passing through ~~a the~~ thermal lens;
10 produced through the convergent irradiation of the exciting
light, characterized in that:

wherein the convergently irradiated exciting light and ~~the~~
detecting light ~~convergently irradiated in said convergent~~
~~irradiation step have respective~~ different frequencies to one
15 another; and

wherein the converging lens satisfies a condition that a
length of a shift in a focal position of the detecting light from
a focal position of the exciting light is in a range of 2 times
to 30 times a confocal length at the frequency of the exciting
20 light.

2. (Currently Amended) A photothermal conversion spectroscopic analysis method ~~having a convergent irradiation step of comprising:~~

convergently irradiating exciting light and detecting light
5 onto a sample ~~using through a same~~ converging lens ~~such that the convergent irradiation of the exciting light produces a thermal lens in the sample; [[,]]~~ and a ~~measurement step of~~

measuring a change in intensity accompanying deflection of
the detecting light upon passing through ~~a the~~ thermal lens;
10 ~~produced through the convergent irradiation of the exciting light, characterized in that:~~

~~wherein~~ the convergently irradiated exciting light and
detecting light have ~~respective~~ different frequencies ~~to one another; and~~

15 ~~wherein~~ the converging lens satisfies a condition that a
length of a shift in a focal position of the detecting light from
a focal position of the exciting light is in a range of 2 times
to 25 times a confocal length at the frequency of the exciting
light.

3. (Currently Amended) A photothermal conversion spectroscopic analysis method as claimed in claim 1,
~~characterized in that~~ ~~wherein~~ the converging lens comprises a rod lens.

4. (Currently Amended) A photothermal conversion spectroscopic analysis apparatus comprising:

a converging lens for convergently irradiating both exciting light and detecting light onto a sample such that the convergent 5 irradiation of the exciting light produces a thermal lens in the sample; [[,] and

measurement means for measuring a change in intensity accompanying deflection of the detecting light upon passing through ~~a the thermal lens; produced through the convergent~~ 10 ~~irradiation of the exciting light, characterized in that:~~

wherein the convergently irradiated exciting light and detecting light have respective different frequencies ~~to one~~ ~~another;~~ and

wherein said converging lens satisfies a condition that a 15 length of a shift in a focal position of the detecting light from a focal position of the exciting light is in a range of 2 times to 30 times a confocal length at the frequency of the exciting light.

5. (Currently Amended) A photothermal conversion spectroscopic analysis apparatus comprising:

a converging lens for convergently irradiating both exciting light and detecting light onto a sample such that the convergent

5 irradiation of the exciting light produces a thermal lens in the
sample; [[,] and

measurement means for measuring a change in intensity
accompanying deflection of the detecting light upon passing
through a the thermal lens; produced through the convergent
10 irradiation of the exciting light, characterized in that:

wherein the convergently irradiated exciting light and
detecting light have respective different frequencies to-one
another; and

15 wherein said converging lens satisfies a condition that a
length of a shift in a focal position of the detecting light from
a focal position of the exciting light is in a range of 2 times
to 25 times a confocal length at the frequency of the exciting
light.

6. (Currently Amended) A photothermal conversion
spectroscopic analysis apparatus as claimed in claim 4,
characterized in that wherein said converging lens comprises a
rod lens.

7. (Currently Amended) A photothermal conversion
spectroscopic analysis method as claimed in claim 2,
characterized in that wherein the converging lens comprises a rod
lens.

8. (Currently Amended) A photothermal conversion
spectroscopic analysis apparatus as claimed in claim 5,
~~characterized in that~~ wherein said converging lens comprises a
rod lens.